

this Japanese firm wouldn't be investing \$70 million to build a new hybrid battery plant in my district. They wouldn't be hiring 50 to 60 new workers at an average weekly wage of \$900, plus an additional 91 indirect jobs.

In Michigan, with an unemployment rate of over 14 percent, we need every job we can get. 150 people will have jobs in my district because of Toda's innovation, the Recovery Act's commitment to battery development, and a never-give-up attitude. This is how we turn our economy around one job at a time.

THREE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I returned from my district here just a couple of days ago after hearing from my constituents at several town hall meetings. One of the things they made absolutely crystal clear was they wanted us to start over on health care. They weren't arguing for the status quo. They are arguing for a new start.

So what do we have on Thursday? The President inviting Members from both Houses, both Democrat and Republican, for what? For what? A session in which it appears that the ground rules are going to be we are going to start with the House and the Senate bills.

I don't know. I am proud to be in this House, in part because of my love of the Constitution. I look at the Constitution, and it says we have three different branches of government and we are responsible for legislation. I don't see where there is a monarchy, where you are supposed to go and have an audience with the monarch surrounded by his court jesters.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I, too, had a chance to be out in my local district. I was on Main Street in St. Peter, Minnesota. We had great conversations about how small businesses can continue to create and revitalize our economy. But do you know what they talked about most? Health care. They shared stories about double-digit increases in premiums. They shared stories about a difficult time hiring new employees because of the cost of health insurance. But one story in particular stuck with me.

I walked into Julee's Jewelry Store in St. Peter, Minnesota. Julee is a woman who has poured her life into making her business work, but she also shared a story with me.

Her son Trevor was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. So as she

and Trevor fight for his life, they are also fighting their insurance company to pay for the chemotherapy that their doctor ordered. She also told me she fears her son will never be able to change jobs because of a preexisting condition. Our current health system is limiting our ability to innovate and grow our economy.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I represent the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I am proud to do so because of the high quality, low cost care that they provide.

I would like to leave you with a quote last week from the Mayo Clinic: "Reforming health care in America is absolutely essential. The status quo is not sustainable."

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I went online and got the President's proposal here, and it is 11 pages, and it is a summary. And then I got the summary of the summary, and it looks like it is about 19 pages summarizing the 11 pages. So I guess we are creating jobs by trying to do summaries of the summaries of the summaries. That is not good enough. People are out of work.

We heard last year, a year ago that if we did not pass the stimulus bill, the porkulus bill, if that didn't pass, unemployment might go as high as 8.5 percent. God, would that we would be there instead of where we are today.

This is not going to create jobs. It is going to suck more money out of the economy that government uses that the businesses will not have to create jobs. Let's help America. Let's put people back to work so they can afford their own health care.

HEALTH CARE AND JOBS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. When we were fighting in the civil rights movement, you could always count on the naysayers to stand aside and say America could not tolerate the equality of so many new people. Here we are today with the same crowd complaining about the good.

Let me tell you about the Investment Act that has generated opportunities for jobs. Before I tell you that, we do have a health care plan, one that will provide the largest middle class tax cuts in American history for affordable health care, one that will provide you with a competitive marketplace to go in and buy your insurance. No pre-existing condition can ever keep you from health insurance. As far as I am concerned, the people in the 18th Congressional District understand the good, and they know that health care in this form is good for them.

Then, as we stood with Speaker PELOSI at the Port of Houston on Mon-

day and were able to announce \$45 million to fix one of the most dangerous bridges in the Nation, investment, and to acknowledge 2,000 jobs and 3,000 extra jobs, the good is on the way.

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO ON JOB CREATION

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently held a job fair in my district, and despite one of the snowiest travel days of the entire winter, more than 2,000 people showed up. The overwhelming turnout makes one thing clear: We have a long, long way to go to create real jobs.

But instead, Congress has embraced record borrowing and record spending while unemployment now hovers at about 10 percent. Millions of Americans are scraping by wondering why hundreds of billions of dollars of their tax money is being wasted, with millions of lost jobs to show for it.

An economic recovery without jobs is not a recovery. We need to strengthen small business and create the private sector jobs. If we want to boost our economy and put people back to work, we have got to get our priorities straight to help the entrepreneurs, the risk-takers, the innovators, the dreamers, instead of growing government.

HEALTH CARE

(Mrs. CAPPs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, the news that private health insurance companies earned a record \$12.2 billion in profits last year is a stark reminder of the need for enacting health reform now. Their profits are up 56 percent from the previous year, yet more and more Americans can't afford health insurance and are being dropped when they get sick.

As we have seen with Anthem Blue Cross in California, insurance companies are raising their premiums on individuals by as much as 40 percent. This is ridiculous. Fortunately, we have a plan to address this huge problem.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle may think the status quo is fine. I certainly don't. We must enact health reform legislation, holding insurance companies accountable, ensuring that patients have access to affordable care, improving the quality of health care for everyone.

I welcome the release of the President's proposal to achieve these important goals. I look forward to the outcome of Thursday's summit. As these outrageous premium increases show, we have an urgent need to move forward on health care reform.

STIMULUS MISTAKE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week marked 1 year since the passage of the \$862 billion so-called stimulus bill, a bill that was supposed to keep unemployment below 8 percent, a bill that was supposed to boost the economy and private sector job creation, a bill completely paid for with borrowed money in a time of ballooning deficits. We have not seen the broad benefits promised by the stimulus bill, but we will soon have to pay the price for this borrowing and spending.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to turn to page A19 in today's Wall Street Journal and read about the true economic cost of the stimulus bill. According to Harvard economist Robert Barro, over 5 years the stimulus package creates an extra \$600 billion in public spending, but at the cost of \$900 billion in private expenditures. We spent money that we didn't have, and for each dollar spent, we will have to pay back \$1.50 in higher taxes. Mr. Barro sums it up by saying, "The 2009 stimulus bill was a mistake."

We need to focus on private sector job growth, not borrowing for more government spending.

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR JOBS IN AMERICA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, indeed, it's been 1 year since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed without a Republican vote in this House and maybe only one in the Senate, and we've heard a lot of vitriol here today about it. The fact is almost every economist, including Mark Zandy who advised the Republican candidate for President, have said it helped. It helped in a major way our country from falling off a precipice into another Great Depression. A difficult vote, but a needed vote. And 95 percent of Americans received tax breaks, things that the other side of the aisle normally is much in favor of, but for 95 percent of America they didn't care and they didn't vote for it.

The fact is there were three-quarters of a million jobs lost in the last quarter of President Bush's administration; in the last quarter of President Obama, there were just 35,000. The stock market has gone up by 50 percent since President Obama came into office and the jobs stimulus program was passed. There has been improvement.

We had a great crisis, and we were in a ditch, and we are digging our way out, but we are only doing it in one part of the House. We need to work together in a bipartisan measure for jobs.

POLITICAL SCHIZOPHRENIA IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, we have a problem here in Washington since the Democrats took control: It's called insanity, specifically, political schizophrenia.

Yesterday, the Senate voted to spend another \$15 billion in taxpayer money to create a hoped-for 250,000 jobs. Yesterday, President Obama introduced a health care proposal that is estimated to cost 600,000 jobs by his own supporters and up to 5.2 million jobs by business groups. So in 1 day Democrats pushed two proposals—one to create jobs and one to cut jobs—that combined will result in a net job loss of between 350,000 and 4.8 million jobs. The madness has to stop before maybe the President starts claiming he's George Washington.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in Bob Marley's iconic anthem he describes the plight of the Buffalo Soldiers as "fighting on arrival, fighting for survival." No troops in American history have given more and received less in return than the African American regiments known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

They also played a pivotal role in the creation of our national parks. Each spring, these sons of slaves hiked hundreds of miles from San Francisco and Monterey to Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon, serving, in effect, as our country's first park rangers.

Regrettably, I have lived my entire life within walking distance of the Buffalo Soldiers Trail and until recently never knew this part of our history. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4491, which directs the National Park Service to study and promote the Buffalo Soldiers.

NASA BUDGET

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, since NASA's inception, the challenges that American scientists and engineers overcame to put men in space and on the Moon has brought forth a slew of cutting-edge technologies that made their way into our daily lives. Now the administration is willing to throw away 50 years of progress on a sub-orbital taxicab that places the U.S. firmly behind China and other nations who are willing to make the investments we used to because they understand the importance of human space exploration.

On the campaign trail in Florida the President said, We cannot cede our leadership in space. That's why I will help close the gap by speeding the development of the Shuttle's successor. His proposed budget kills that successor, the Constellation program, thereby directly contradicting his commitment. It is a path to second place for the United States.

The President has a voice in the Federal budget process, but not the final word. I intend to fight to maintain hundreds of thousands of high-technology jobs in America and America's global leadership in human space exploration.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was created in the first month of President Obama's term after what was reported to be the worst recession since the Great Depression. Just 1 year ago, our Nation was headed towards an economic collapse with the loss of about 600,000 jobs a month. State and local budget cutbacks were putting teachers' jobs and students' educations in jeopardy. There was no doubt that our economy was in grave need to immediately begin to save and create jobs and lay a foundation for the long-term economic recovery.

This month marks the 1-year anniversary of the passage of the Recovery Act which has jump-started our economy by saving and creating as many as 2.4 million jobs and providing \$120 billion in tax cuts for 95 percent of working families as well as businesses across the country. The act has loaned nearly \$20 billion to small businesses to expand and create jobs, funded more than 12,500 transportation projects nationwide and kept police officers and firefighters on the job. It has funded more than 300,000 educational jobs, keeping teachers in their classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I say let's continue the work.

PUT AMERICANS TO WORK

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, Americans are hurting. One year ago, this Congress passed a \$787 billion stimulus bill which was supposed to keep unemployment under 8 percent, but since its enactment more than 3.5 million jobs have been lost.

The national unemployment rate remains around 10 percent, and in Ohio it is worse. Our unemployment rate is nearly 11 percent, and the real unemployment rate in some areas in my district is over 20. By all measures, this stimulus bill has failed to create jobs.